

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AUSTEN CHRISTOPHER LEE  
NEWTON,

Defendant.

CR 23–12–M–DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is United States Magistrate Judge Kathleen L. DeSoto’s Findings & Recommendation Concerning Plea. (Doc. 27.) Because neither party objected, they are not entitled to *de novo* review. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Therefore, the Court reviews the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc.*, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” *United States v. Syrax*, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

Defendant Austen Christopher Lee Newton is charged with one count of prohibited person in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), as set forth in the Indictment. (Doc. 1.) Judge DeSoto recommends that this Court accept Newton’s guilty plea as to the single count Indictment after he appeared

before her pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. The Court finds no clear error in Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation and adopts them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report. In light of the United States' motion for preliminary order of forfeiture (Doc. 24), the Court will address the issue of forfeiture by separate order.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation (Doc. 27) is ADOPTED in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Newton's motion to change plea (Doc. 17) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Newton is adjudged guilty as charged in the Indictment.

DATED this 18th day of May, 2023.



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Dana L. Christensen, District Judge  
United States District Court